JETS COMICS

BERSERK

22

三浦建太郎

鷹の団全滅となった『蝕』から2年が過ぎた。フェムトに転生したグリフィスをはじめとするゴッド・ハンドとその使徒への復讐をめざす旅に出たガッツ。聖地・アルビオン寺院における怪異と惨劇は〝蝕〟を模したこととなり、グリフィスの受肉と現世への復活を果たした。その中でガッツはかろうじてキャスカを救い出したものの、グリフィスの復活を目にし、ガッツの心は大きく揺れるのだった。そして世界はこの辺境の地より生じた亀裂から形を崩し始めたのだった。

タイトルデザイン／ADOX
カバーデザイン／ZEN CORPORATION

JETS COMICS

ベルセルク

22

三浦建太郎

ベルセルク 22 三浦建太郎

白泉社
720

JETS COMICS

ベルセルク

22

三浦建太郎

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白泉社

BERSERK

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BERSERK

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三浦建太郎

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ベルセルク 22

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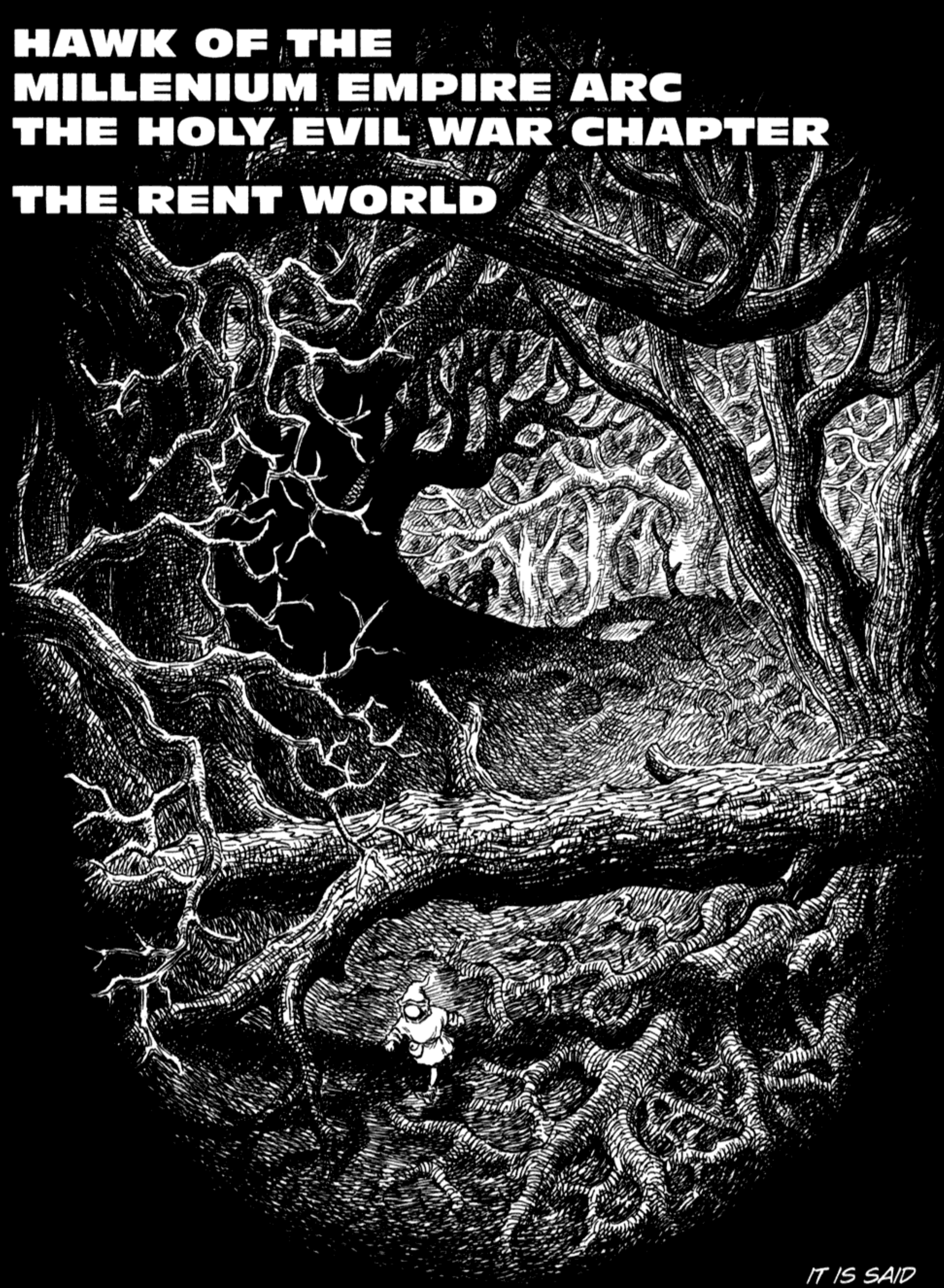
ほころぶ世界

HAWK OF THE MILLENIUM EMPIRE ARC THE HOLY EVIL WAR CHAPTER

THE RENT WORLD



...WHO FIRST BEGAN TO NOTICE...

IT IS SAID IT WAS THE CHILDREN...

SO DON'T CRY TO ME IF YOU GET EATEN BY WOLVES! AND LATELY THERE'S EVEN KUSHAN...!

DON'T I ALWAYS TELL YOU NOT TO GO OFF INTO THE FOREST ?!

FAIRIES.

HOLD UP, NICO! *I'LL* BE THE ONE IN TROUBLE IF YOU GET LOST!

...FAIRIES.

I SAW...

BIG BROTHER.

EH...?

...DON'T THINGS SEEM *WEIRD* LATELY?

IT'S KIND OF LIKE...

THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T WANT TO BRING THIS RUNT ALONG!

LAY OFF HIM, TOMA.

WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT?!

*FX: WHEP

HUH ?

BUT YOU KNOW, I KIND OF UNDERSTAND WHY NICO GETS THAT WAY.

WHAT DOES?

THEY DO, THEY DO!

OH!

HUH?

YOU TOO?

?

IT'S LIKE...

...I CAN'T REALLY EXPLAIN IT.

YEAH, YEAH.

WELL...

...I GET THE FEELING I FELT THIS WAY WHEN I WAS LITTLE, TOO...

SO WHAT IS IT?

WELL, IT'S JUST LIKE...

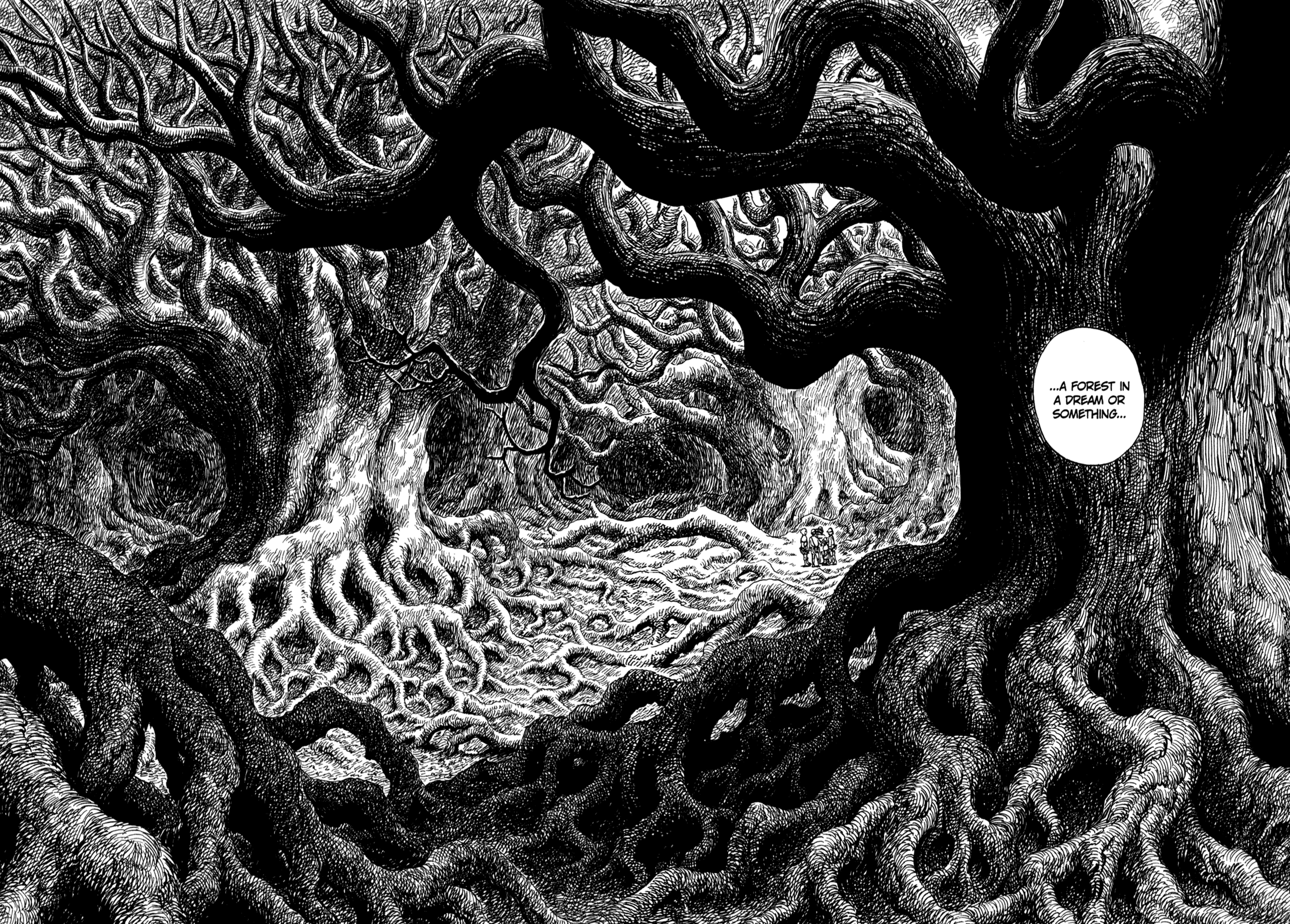
WE'VE BEEN COMING TO THIS FOREST FOREVER...

LIKE WHAT...?

...BUT WAS IT ALWAYS LIKE THIS?

DON'T YOU FEEL SOMETHING, TOO?

.....


...A FOREST IN A DREAM OR SOMETHING...

*FX: WSS WSS WSS

*FX: WSS WSS

THE WIND ...

IT HAS TO BE THE WIND...

D-DID YOU JUST HEAR SOMETHING? SOMEONE LAUGHING...?

C-CUT IT OUT!

FAIRIES.

*FX: HEE HEE HEE HEE

*FX: WSS WSS WSS

*FX: HEHEHEH

*FX: HEE HEE HEE

*FX: HEE HEE HEE

*FX: GEH HEH

*FX: HEEHEEHEE

*FX: HEE HEE

*FX: HM HM HM

(sounds of laughter)

...
...
!!

*FX: (silence)

*FX: FWOOMP FWOOMP

IT STOPPED ...

IT...

*FX: WSHHH

*FX: WSHH

!

NOW WHAT ?!

N...

*FWOOMP

*FWOOMP

*FWOOMP

BIG BROTHER, LOOK!!

WHMMM

...THE HOLLOWS OF TREES,
THE GROUND BENEATH GRAVES,
THE WHISPERS OF WINDS,
THE LULL BETWEEN WAVES,
THE DEPTHS OF WELLS,
THE DARKNESS OF ATTICS...

...SECRETLY,
AT SOME POINT,
THEIR SILENCE...

...CEASED
TO BE MERE
SILENCE.

UWAHHHH!

AN EVIL FOREST SPIRIT...!!

MONSTER!

SECRETLY...

...SOMETHING SURELY BREATHED WITHIN THE SILENCE.

...AS IF IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN THERE ALL ALONG...

LIKE A FOLK TALE TOLD BY ELDERS TO CHILDREN...

*PSHH

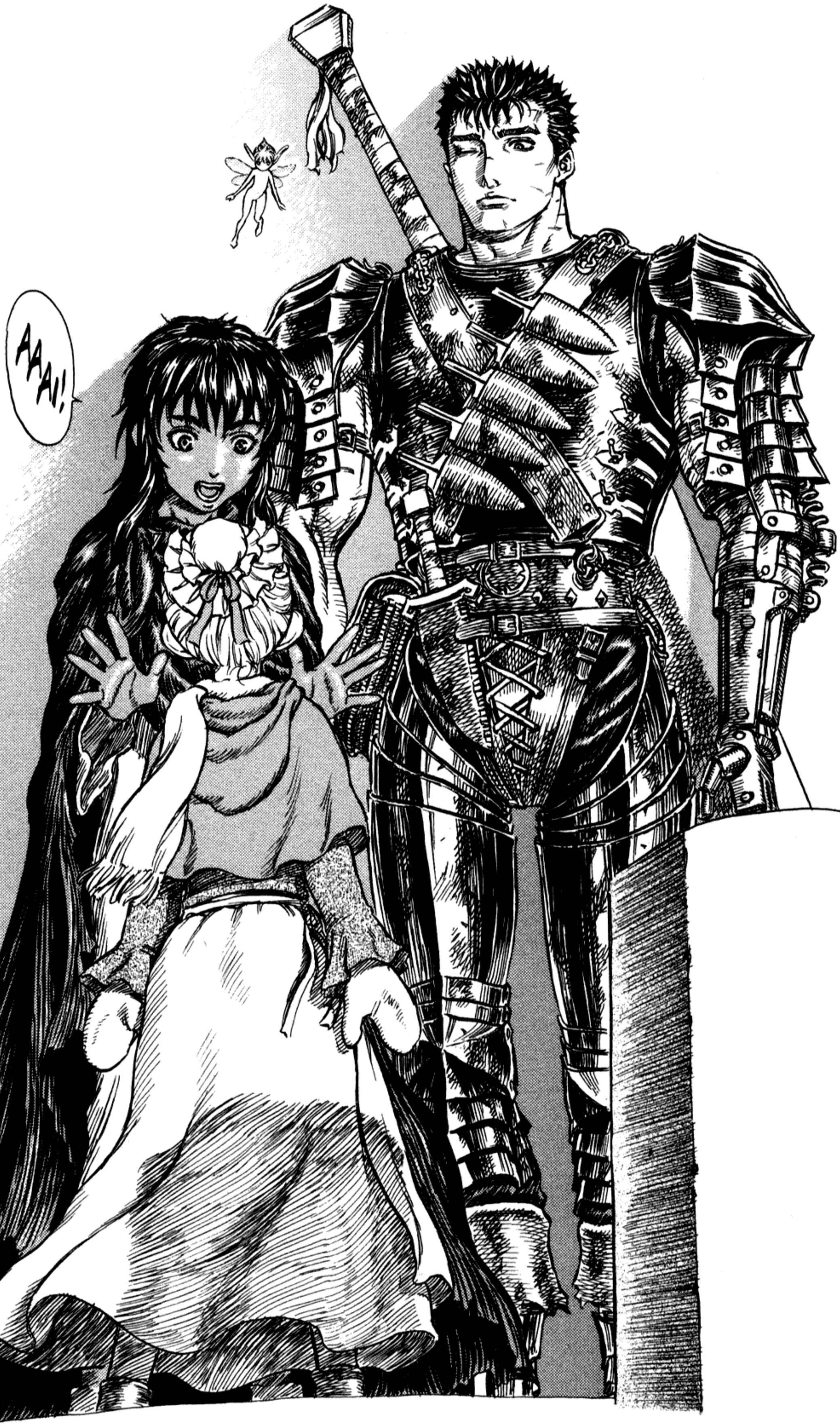
*PSHH

...DADDY.

GOOD MORNING ...

!

*FX: KRNCH


AAAI!

YO.

WE'RE BACK.

CASCA...

GUTS ...

OOOAH!

*FX: UWAHHH

うわあ

*FX: HUG

OH!

*FX: AHHHH

あああ

I GUESS ...

...WE TOOK TOO LONG...

.....

IT WAS SOON AFTER YOU LEFT, GUTS.

...HE WAS LUCKY ENOUGH JUST TO SEE YOU BEFORE HE DIED.

DADDY SAID THAT ...

NAHHH.

I'M SORRY.

...HE DIDN'T WANT YOU TO SEE HIS FACE ONCE HE WAS GONE.

BESIDES ...

...

WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO NOW?

SOOO ...

YOU WON'T LEAVE HER AGAIN, RIGHT?

YOU FOUND CASCA, AND IT WAS *MY* FAULT SHE GOT LOST IN THE FIRST PLACE.

BUT THANK GOOD-NESS!

HERE.

LET'S ALL LIVE TOGETHER.

LET'S ALL...

WE CAN EVEN ALL FIX UP THE CAVE AND MAKE IT MORE LIKE A HOUSE SO IT'S EASIER TO LIVE IN!

...EVEN CASCA WILL BE FINE!

AS LONG AS YOU'RE HERE...

...SHE WON'T RUN OFF ANYMORE.

I'M SURE IF YOU'RE WITH HER AND TREAT HER WELL...

.....

!

THAT'S TRUE.

ACTUALLY, I ONLY HALF MEAN IT.

CAN YA MAKE THAT PROMISE SO EASILY ?

IT'S A DEAL !!

R...

REALLY ?

REALLY, REALLY ?!

Y- YEAH ...

やっ *YAYYY

たお

...I...SAW HIM...

JUST AS I GOT HER BACK...NO, IN THE MIDDLE OF SWINGING MY SWORD TO GET HER BACK...

HE LOOKED SO HUMAN.

THE WAY HE APPEARED BEFORE ME... HE WASN'T A DEMON.

AS IF HE'D BEEN STOLEN FROM THE PAST, THE WAY HE USED TO BE.

...I'D FORGOTTEN MY URGE TO KILL.

THE INSTANT I SAW HIM...

...CAN'T BE.

AND THAT...

WANDERING AND PUSHING THROUGH THE DEAD SPIRITS, STALKING HIS SHADOW WHEN HE WASN'T EVEN IN THIS WORLD...

WITHOUT EVEN KNOWING WHERE HE WAS...

IT WAS AN AIMLESS JOURNEY...

...RELYING JUST ON STRANGE RUMORS AND THE SUBTLE SENSATIONS OF THE BRAND...

WHERE MY SWORD CAN REACH!!!

ON THE SAME GROUND WHERE I WALK!!

BUT NOW HE'S IN THE SAME WORLD AS ME!!

OH.
I JUST REMEMBERED, WE'VE GOT A GUEST.
A GUEST ?
.....
YEAH.
IT'S SOMEBODY RICKERT KNOWS FROM WAY BACK.
THEY'RE AT THE SWORD CEMETERY NOW.
...I COULD HARDLY TELL HE WAS A MAN.
HE WAS SO PRETTY ...
DO YOU KNOW HIM, TOO?
LONG SILVER HAIR.
HE SAID HE WAS RICKERT'S FRIEND WHEN HE WAS A SOLDIER.

MORE LIKE SOMEONE OUT OF A FAIRY TALE...

I REALLY STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT.

*FX: ZHF ZHF ZHF ZHF ZHF

...WHEN NO ONE BUT GUTS AND CASCA CAME BACK...

THAT DAY...

JUDEAU.

CORKUS.

PIPPIN.

...OF THEM.

NOT ONE...

GUTS WON'T TALK ABOUT IT, AND I'M AFRAID TO ASK...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED THAT DAY.

*ZHF!

...HAD ENDED.

HAD GONE AWAY.

...THAT EVERY-THING ...

I'D THOUGHT ...

...AND HERE WE ARE AGAIN.

...YOU'RE ALIVE ...

BUT...

*FX: ZHF ZHF ZHF ZHF

HAHH

HAHH

GUTS !

!

*ZHFFFF

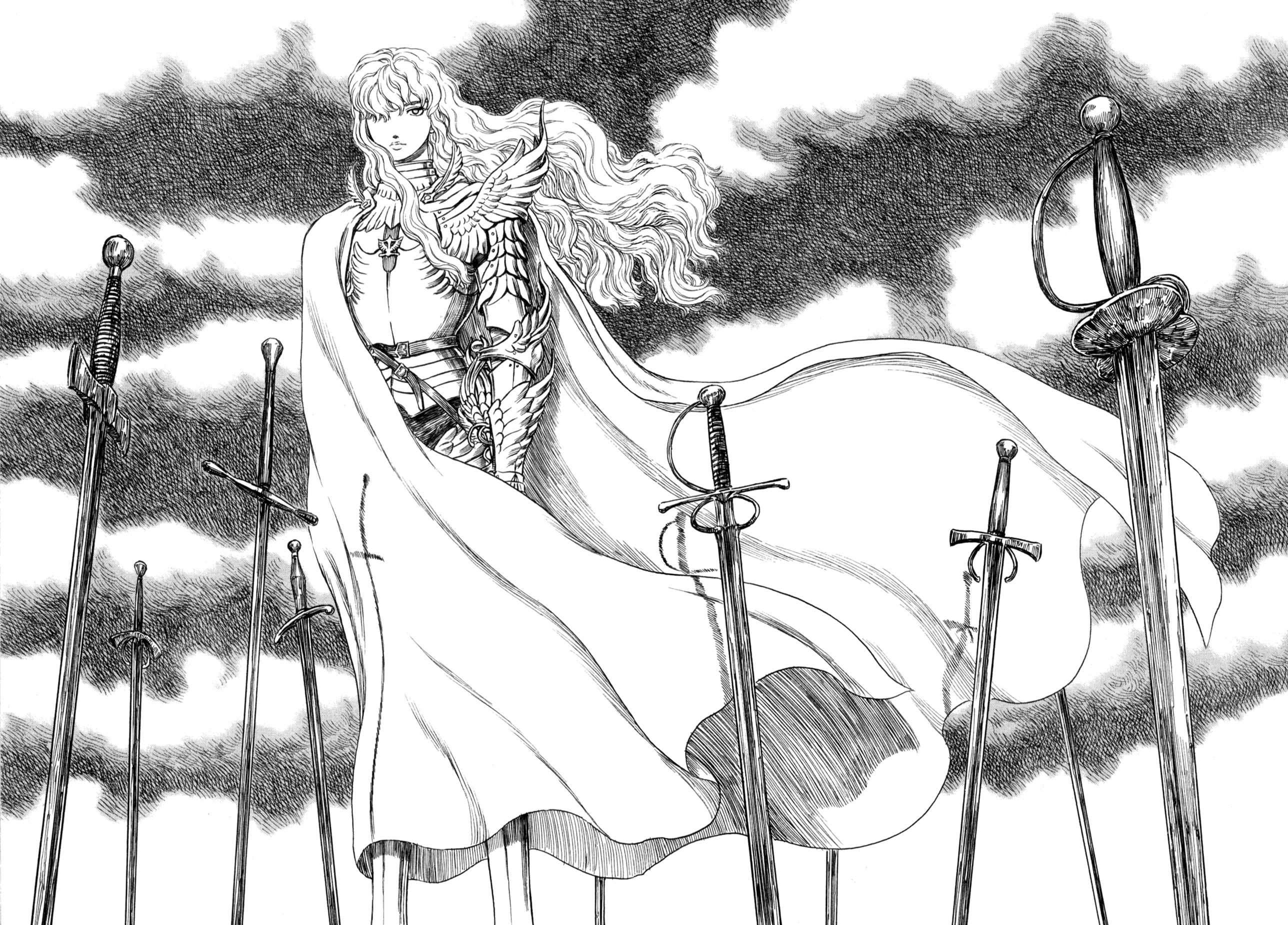
*HAHHH

*HAHHH

HAWK OF THE MILLENIUM EMPIRE ARC
THE HOLY EVIL WAR CHAPTER

REUNION ON THE HILL OF SWORDS

剣の丘の再会



GUTS?!

?!

*LUNGE

W-WAIT A MINUTE...!!

*TACKLE

I WON'T! WHY'RE YOU ATTACKING ALL OF A SUDDEN ...?!

YOU'RE DEAD SERIOUS !!

MOVE, RICKERT !!

HE'S OUR GRIFFITH !!

HE'S GRIFFITH ...!!

SO WHY ?!

...!!

ドゥ!!

*FX: SHLPP

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING ?

?

...THE GRIFFITH YOU KNOW ANYMORE !!

THAT...

THAT'S NOT...

NO !!

I DON'T UNDER-STAND !!

JUST GET OUT OF THE WAY !!

YOU NEVER CHANGE.

...TALK LATER.

YOU ALWAYS SWING FIRST...

THAT SAME FACE.

NO. RATHER ...

YOU'RE THE WAY YOU WERE WHEN WE FIRST MET.

THAT SAME SMILE.

DON'T TALK...

...TO ME IN THAT SAME VOICE !!

WHAT THE HELL'D YOU COME HERE FOR?!

YOU ...!!

*FX: GH

TO SEE YOU.

THERE WAS NO CHANCE TO SPEAK WITH YOU ALONE.

IT WAS FAR TOO TURBULENT AT THAT TOWER.

THE BAND OF THE HAWK...

...ASSEMBLING ONCE MORE.

THIS PLACE SEEMS MORE FITTING FOR US...

DON'T YOU DARE SAY THAT NAME!!

WHILE I STAND BEFORE YOU IN THIS NEW BODY OF FLESH...

I CAME HERE TO KNOW FOR CERTAIN...

...WHETHER ANYTHING WILL SHAKE MY HEART.

...I AM...

...FREE.

...IT SEEMS...

AGHH!

*SHOVE

*WSHHH

YOU MEAN...

...AFTER ALL THOSE YOU BETRAYED...

...AFTER WHAT YOU DID...

YOU DON'T FEEL ANYTHING ?!

...YOU DON'T...

...BETRAY MY DREAM.

I'LL NOT...

THAT IS ALL.

*SHAANG

*WHOM

*FX: SHMM

*KREENG

LONG TIME...

!

WHA --?!

*KREEENG

...BLACK SWORDS-MAN!!

ZODD ?!
*WHOOOOOO

?

WHAT'S WRONG, CASCA?

OO...

*FX: CHOMP CHOMP CHOMP

THIS PRESENCE...

...

AUUU...

HAWK OF THE MILLENIUM EMPIRE ARC
THE HOLY EVIL WAR CHAPTER
THE BEAST SWORDSMAN VS. THE BLACK SWORDSMAN
獣剣士対黒い剣士

*PUSH

*KRRRNK

ガ ガ ガ ガ ガ

*PUSH

WHO THE HELL IS HE...?!

HE STOPPED A BLOW FROM GUTS' BIG SWORD ?!

YOU DID WELL TO SURVIVE, DESPITE MY PREDICTION !!

IT PLEASES ME, BOY!!!

*WHAM

*FX: GROOARR

*LUNGE

*ZHAAAA

*WHOP

*FLIP

*WHMM

スザザザ

*ZHZHAAA

*WHOMM

*VNNN

*DWOMM

*GOWNG

*SLASH

*BDING

*TWIRL

*GANG

*GYNN

*VYNN

*VOMM

*DONNG

*FLIP

*LEAP

*ZHAAF

*FX: HAHH HAHH

*FX: GRRRRRR

AMAZING !!!

I CAN'T TELL WHAT'S GOING ON.

A...

MAGNIFICENT!!
AS A HUMAN YOU'VE DONE WELL TO ATTAIN SUCH DISCIPLINE!!

I WANTED TO CROSS SWORDS WITH YOU AGAIN THIS WAY, NOW THAT YOU'VE LIVED THROUGH SUCH CARNAGE!!

WHY'RE YOU WITH GRIFFITH?

WHAT IS THIS?

MY BUSINESS IS WITH HIM!!

MOVE ASIDE!!

FORCE YOUR WAY PAST!!

WORDS LACK ELEGANCE!!

*FX: ROHHH

おっ

おっ

*WHOM

*GYOWNNG

HE STRUCK IT DOWN!!

*VOMM

HE EVADED?! HE'S GOT INHUMAN REFLEXES!!!

*WHIP

*WHONG

*WHAM
WHAM
WHAM

*FX: GRRRN

WHAT SWORD STRENGTH !!

*FX: STRAIN STRAIN

*FX: TREMBLE TREMBLE

ANY OTHER SWORD WOULD SHATTER !!

ガク

ガク!

*FX: SHSHF

HE REALLY IS A GODDAMN MONSTER !!

I'M DEAD IF I STAY ON THE DEFENSIVE !!!

*SHOVE

*STAGGER

*UGH..

*VYNN

*ZNN

*SHRIP

*BCHING

*WHOM

*SHNN

*SHRAP

MY HEAD COULD BE SPLIT IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE!!

IT'S THE SAME AS THAT OTHER TIME!!

EVERY CLASH RATTLES MY BONES!! THESE AIN'T STRIKES YOU CAN JUST WARD OFF!!

...I CAN FIGHT.

BUT...

...SEARCHING FOR HIM, AND NOW...

I'VE STRUGGLED THROUGH COUNTLESS NIGHTS...

...ALL YOU ARE IS IN MY WAY!!!

I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS, EVEN ON THE BATTLE-FIELD!!

INCREDIBLE...!!

THE WAY HE HANDLES THAT MASSIVE SWORD!!

HE'S GROWN STRONGER THAN I COULD IMAGINE!!

IS HIS RANCOR DIRECTED AT GRIFFITH? WHY?!

BUT THAT WRATH...

*DSSH

*FX: ZGING

THAT'S MY--

!

*GRAB

HNN!

*JING

*VSSSH

KHAH!

HE'S TRYIN' TO END THIS!!

*FX: DOM DOM

*FX: VYNN

*GOGING

OH, NO! BOTH HIS HANDS ARE TIED UP!!

*KICK

*VSSH

*DOSSH

HGNN!

*FX: SHF SHF SHF SHF

WH-WHAT A FIGHT !!

.....!!

*FX: ぎっ!!

*CLENCH

BUT THEN THERE'S GUTS' SPLIT-SECOND JUDGEMENT, USING A SWORD BURIED IN THE SNOW LIKE THAT THE INSTANT HE WAS DRIVEN BACK!!

THAT MAN WAS AMAZING TO SWITCH TO USING TWO SWORDS IN THE MIDST OF ATTACK AND DEFENSE THE MOMENT HE REALIZED HIS SWORD WAS DAMAGED...!!

GUTS HAS DONE UNBELIEVABLY WELL, BRAVING DEATH.

DEATH...

BTHUMP

A FAINT THROBBING.

THROBBING...

...HAVE BEEN FROZEN.

MY BLOOD SHOULD...

...MUST BELONG TO THAT INFANT...

THESE FEELINGS...

...THAT FUSED INTO MY VESSEL.

...
...
...

BTHUMP

HAWK OF THE
MILLENIUM EMPIRE ARC
THE HOLY EVIL WAR CHAPTER

UNCHANGED

聖魔戦記の章　不変

BERSERK

YOUR STRENGTH HAS GOTTEN YOU THROUGH EVEN BATTLES WITH APOSTLES.

A HUMAN WHO SURVIVED THE ECLIPSE...

SPLENDID ...

*FX: SHLK

...BUT IT SEEMS THIS HORSE-SLAYER I STOLE FROM THE KUSHAN DOESN'T QUITE MATCH UP TO THAT DEMON-SLAYER OF YOURS.

I'D LIKE TO AMUSE MYSELF FURTHER WITH THIS SWORD DANCE OF OURS...

IT IS A *SPLENDID* SWORD!!

AND *YOU* POSSESS SPLENDID TECHNIQUE !!

IT ALL STARTS HERE!!

...TASTED ENOUGH!!

I'VE NOT YET...

Z-
ZODD?!

*GROHH

NO MISTAKE, THAT-- THAT MAN'S NOSFERATU ZODD?!

*SSST

ビリ。ビリ。

...!!

I HAVE NOT HAD MY FILL !!!

WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE?!

*FX: VNNN

*ZGANG

*THD THD THD

*SHNK

*SHOOM

*VSHH
*WHAM
*SPIN
*GWAHH
*WOK

*GINNNG

GUTS ...!!

!

*WMP WMP WMP

*FX: KROK

*SHASHFF SHF SHSHF

*LUNGE

*DMP

!

*DMP

*WOBBLE

*DMP

*DMP

*FX: BRMMMM

*KRUNK

THAT'S...!

...MASTER GODO'S MINE...!!

FLEE

DON'T RUN OFF AGAIN!

CASCA, COME BACK!

ズズズズズ

*FX: DZZZNNN

...
...
!!

GET BACK !!!

YOU STUPID ...!!

*FX: BADUMP

ドクン!

*FX: FLINCH

I JUST HEARD A RUM-BLING...

GUTS!?

ビク..

OO!

OO!

*BDOOOOM

WHOA!

ERICA

AGHH! MONSTERRRR !!

*FX: ROHHHH

*FX: WHOCK

*FX: GSHANNNG

*FX: SHMP

ガシャアン

GA SCA...!!

ドドオオーン

*BDOOOM

ガ

ガ"チャ

CAS...

*FX: GAHA

*FX: GCHAK

CASCA!!

...!!

*FX: CLATA

ガ"ラ"ラ"

AH...
AH...

KH...

OO...

HEE...

*SHLSHH

STO...

*FX: FMP

*SHH

UGEE...

GRRRRR

*FX: WHOM

!

THAT'S ENOUGH.

LET'S GO.

W...

*TURN

*GUFUHHH

:VWAA

WHERE'RE YOU...?!

WAIT!!

I TOLD YOU ONCE...

I WILL...

...GET MY OWN KINGDOM.

NOTHING ...

...HAS CHANGED.

I WILL...

...GET MY OWN KINGDOM.

HAWK OF THE MILLENIUM EMPIRE ARC
THE HOLY EVIL WAR CHAPTER

PROLOGUE TO THE WAR

戦記の序章

NOTHING...

...HAS CHANGED.

*FX: VWAA

NOTHING...

...HAS ENDED.

WAH!

*FX: SHMM

RICKERT.

...AND COME TO HATE ME, SO BE IT.

IF YOU LEARN THE TRUTH...

...YOU SAY YOU CAN STILL CHASE THE DREAM...

BUT...

...IF EVEN THEN...

...I'LL HAVE NO CAUSE TO REFUSE YOU.

W- WAIT!

I DON'T UNDER- STAND!

WHAT'S THE TRUTH?!

*SHF SHF SHF SHF

*GACHNK

*THMP

*THMP

*THMP

*FX: GYNN

*FX: EEEE

*FX: BYVV

YOU SAY NOTHING'S CHANGED...!!

MOVE IT, RICKERT !!

GUTS, NO!!

THIS IS THE MAN I AM.

YOU SHOULD HAVE KNOWN.

...YOU SAY NOTHING'S CHANGED ?!

AFTER EVERYTHING YOU DID..

YOU, OF ALL PEOPLE.

ヒュウ ウ ウ ウ ー ー

*FX: WHOOOWOOOO

THE TRUTH.

TELL IT TO ME.

GUTS...

WHAT HAPPENED TO GRIFFITH AND EVERYONE ELSE THAT DAY?

I *HAVE* TO KNOW !!

NO!!

...DON'T I HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW IT, TOO?!

HOWEVER PAINFUL IT IS...

GUTS...!!

*WHOM

BTHUMP

BTHUMP

*FX: WOOOO-OOO

...THAT'S THE TRUTH?

*FX: WMP

HOW COULD THAT...

HOW COULD...

.....

...FROM THEN...

...THAT IMAGE WAS...

SO...

SOMEHOW OR OTHER...

...I'D FIGURED IT OUT...

.....

AHHHH...

IT'S ALL BURIED.

OH, IT'S NO USE.

AND RIGHT WHEN WE WERE ALL TOGETHER...

THIS MEANS GUTS AND CASCA'S HOME IS...

WHAT NOW?

I'M GOING, TOO !!

...THAT HEAVY BURDEN ALL ALONE...

YOU CARRIED...

COMFORTABLE BY MYSELF IN A PLACE LIKE THIS...!!

...WHILE I REMAINED *IGNORANT* !!

NO.

WHY NOT...?!

I'M A HAWK, TOO...!!

I WAS...

TAKE ME WITH YOU!!

...COULD NEVER REALLY ***HATE*** GRIFFITH.

BECAUSE YOU...

...!

!

YOU'RE LEAVING ?!

IS EVERYONE LEAVING ?!

IS EVERY-ONE...

ERICA !!

*FX: RUN

WHAT'RE YOU DOIN'?!

HURRY 'N' CATCH HER!

.....

*WHF

WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO NOW?

SO...?

KEEP ON...

...THE TRAIL OF VENGEANCE ?

...LEAVE HER AGAIN.

I WON'T ...

THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE.

I KNOW THAT.

DON'T SAY THE TRAIL OF VENGEANCE WITH CASCA...

I KNOW!

...WAS PROVEN AT THE TOWER OF CONVICTION.

THE FACT THAT TWO BRANDED PEOPLE CAN'T STAY IN ONE PLACE FOR LONG...

AIN'T WE RELUCTANT.

BUT THE ELF CAVE'S BEEN DEMOLISHED.

STAYIN' HERE'S A BIT OUTTA THE QUESTION, *HUH?*

AIN'T THERE ANY OTHER ELF DWELLINGS AROUND HERE?

NONE COME TO MIND...

THEN YOU'D JUST LOCK CASCA UP AGAIN? THAT'S SAD.

DIDN'T SHE RUN OFF IN THE FIRST PLACE 'CAUSE SHE HATED THAT?

*FX: SHH SHH SHH SHH

YOU CAN'T EVEN STAY JUST ONE NIGHT?

HAWK OF THE MILLENIUM EMPIRE ARC THE HOLY EVIL WAR CHAPTER

FIERCE KUSHAN ATTACK

クシャーン猛襲

LIKE I SAID, AS LONG AS WE HAVE THESE BRANDS, WE'LL JUST ATTRACT THE DEAD AND DEMON SPIRITS.

THEN *YOU'LL* BE IN DANGER TOO.

I...

AND ERICA...

.....

I, TOO...

BUT STILL...

...WHAT YOU CAN'T REPLACE.

DON'T ABANDON ...

WEREN'T THOSE GODO'S PARTING WORDS?

YOU'D BETTER BE SURE TO LOOK AFTER HER, GUTS!!

TAKE CARE, CASCA!!

...IT WAS IN SNOW JUST LIKE THIS.

THAT'S RIGHT. THE TIME I LEFT THE BAND OF THE HAWK...

SNOW...

...WAS ON A SNOWY HILL LIKE THIS.

THE DAY I QUARRELED WITH HIM...

...I'M THE ONE WHO WAS DESERTED.

THIS TIME...

YOU SHOULD HAVE KNOWN.

THIS IS THE MAN I AM.

I TOLD YOU ONCE...

...I WILL...

...GET MY OWN KINGDOM.

YOU, OF ALL PEOPLE.

I WON'T LEAVE YOU BEHIND.

I WON'T ...

...DESERT YOU ANYMORE.

THIS TIME...

...I WON'T LOSE YOU.

*VSHHHHH

*FX: BOOM BOOM

*DZOOON

*FX: BWOMP

*GDASSSH

*FX: WHOMP

*FX: TRMP TRMP TRMP TRMP

SHET, WESTERN MIDLAND

*FX: WHACK

*FX: TNK

*FX: ROLL

*KRRN

*KRRN

*KRRN

*THNK

*THNK

*THNK

*FX: BWOOF

*GYAHHH

AIIEEE
...

STOP
THIIIS...

OR ELSE BE MADE TO HAVE KUSHAN CHILDREN... IT'S THE QUICKEST WAY TO TAKE OVER ANOTHER RACE.

I'M SURE WE'LL BE TAKEN TO THEIR LAND AS SLAVES.

WHO KNOWS?

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO US?

EITHER WAY, WE'RE DONE FOR.

NOOOO...!!

I HEARD A RUMOR THAT THEY SACRIFICE WOMEN TO THEIR GOD.

THIS TOWN, THIS KINGDOM.

THERE'S NO USE SAYING THAT NOW.

...THIS WOULD NEVER...

IF ONLY *HE* WERE HERE...

THE BAND OF THE HAWK.

SHE SAW HER PARENTS BURN TO DEATH. SHE MUST HAVE LOST HER MIND.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS GIRL?

IT'S COMING.

OUR HELPING HAND.

SOON, NOW.

IT'S COMING.

THAT'S WHAT THE WIND WHISPERS.

I CAN HEAR IT.

THE *HAWK OF LIGHT* IS COMING.

IT SEEMS THE FEAR OF OUR ARMY IS A BIT *TOO* STRONG A MEDICINE.

BUT, GENERAL, THEY SHOW NO SIGN OF ACCEPTING OUR REPEATED COUNSEL TO SURRENDER.

IF ONLY IT DID NOT TAKE SO LONG FOR A CITY TO FALL.

THE FOOLS CALL EXTERMINATION DOWN ON THEMSELVES WHEN THEY ...

...COULD GO ON LIVING AS WAR SLAVES IF THEY'D ONLY SUBMIT.

OUR FORCES HAVE ALREADY MANAGED TO BRING DOWN SIX FORTRESSES ...

...AND YET HERE *YOU* ARE...

I'M FLABBERGASTED, *BAKIRAKA.*

AN ENTIRE CLAN HAS FAILED TO CAPTURE JUST ONE MAN.

HOW *ABSURD.*

WHAT MAKES *YOU* A WARRIOR CLAN?

I HEAR TELL THAT IT ALL STARTED BASED ON AN ORACLE RECEIVED BY THE HIGH PRIEST. IN THAT CASE, ANY KIND OF ABNORMAL PHENOMENON SHOULD BE POSSIBLE...

BEGGING YOUR PARDON, BUT THIS INVASION ...

WHO WOULD BELIEVE SUCH NONSENSE ?

AND NOW YOU SAY THE HAWK FLEW OFF ON AN EVIL BEAST.

*WHOCK

...OUGHT NOT TO SPEAK AS IF INFORMED.

ONE WHO IS AS A *SLAVE*...

...IS AN ACT OF RAVING DRUNKEN-NESS.

EVEN IF OUR GREAT EMPEROR RECOGNIZES PEOPLE LIKE YOU AS SOLDIERS FOR AMUSE-MENT'S SAKE, ENTRUSTING YOU WITH A MISSION ...

FROM A MILITARY STAND-POINT...

WHAT DO PRIESTS KNOW OF WAR?

... CLAIMING AN ORACLE AS THE START OF A WAR IS NO MORE THAN A PRETEXT.

YOU ALL WERE DRIVEN FROM THE EMPIRE FOR SIDING WITH THE DEFEATED ROYAL FAMILY IN THE PREVIOUS STRUGGLE FOR IMPERIAL SUCCESSION, BUT YOUR ORIGINAL SOCIAL STANDING WAS AT THE LEVEL OF SLAVES. WHAT GOOD WILL REPATRIATION DO YOU?

YOU BAKIRAKA WHO RELY ON...

*FX: GRIND

...SUCH MUTTERED TRIPE ARE PATHETIC.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING ...?!

WHA...

*FX: SHRRRL

*FX: WSHH

UOH?!

*SNATCH

*FX: GULP

IF YOU WOULD PARDON THE URGENCY.

*FX: VEENNNNG

*WSHH

IT DIDN'T WORK ...!

RU--!

!

...UH ...

*CROK

*GSSH

AHHHH! DAMN YOUUU!

*WHOM

*BGANG

*CHWOK

IGHH...

*KONK

*BOCH

AHHH

CHOK

WE BEG YOUR PARDON.

AND THEY CRUSHED IRON ARMOR WITH THEIR BARE HANDS?!

S-SO SWIFT!! WHAT SKILLS!!

*FX: TRMP TRMP

WE NOW RETURN TO OUR MISSION OF SEARCHING FOR THE HAWK.

ARE THEY MON-STERS?!

*FX: CLOP CLOP

FIERCE KUSHAN ATTACK: END

鬨の風①

HAWK OF THE MILLENIUM EMPIRE ARC

THE HOLY EVIL WAR CHAPTER

WAR CRY OF THE WIND, PART 1

IS THAT ...?!

IMPOS-
SIBLE!!
WHY IS HE
HERE...?!

THE
HAWK
OF
LIGHT...
!!

*FX: SHH

*FX: AH

*FX: CLOP

*FX: CLOP

YOU...

WHAT...
?

Y...

*TNK

UH?!

*FX: FMP

*FX: SHUNK

*TWITCH ビク。

*TWITCH ビク。

ククク。

*CLACK CLACK CLACK

E...
EXCELLENCY.

WH-
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!

*GASHANNNG

FIRE!!

FIRE YOUR ARROWS!!

WAIT ...!!

*TUNG

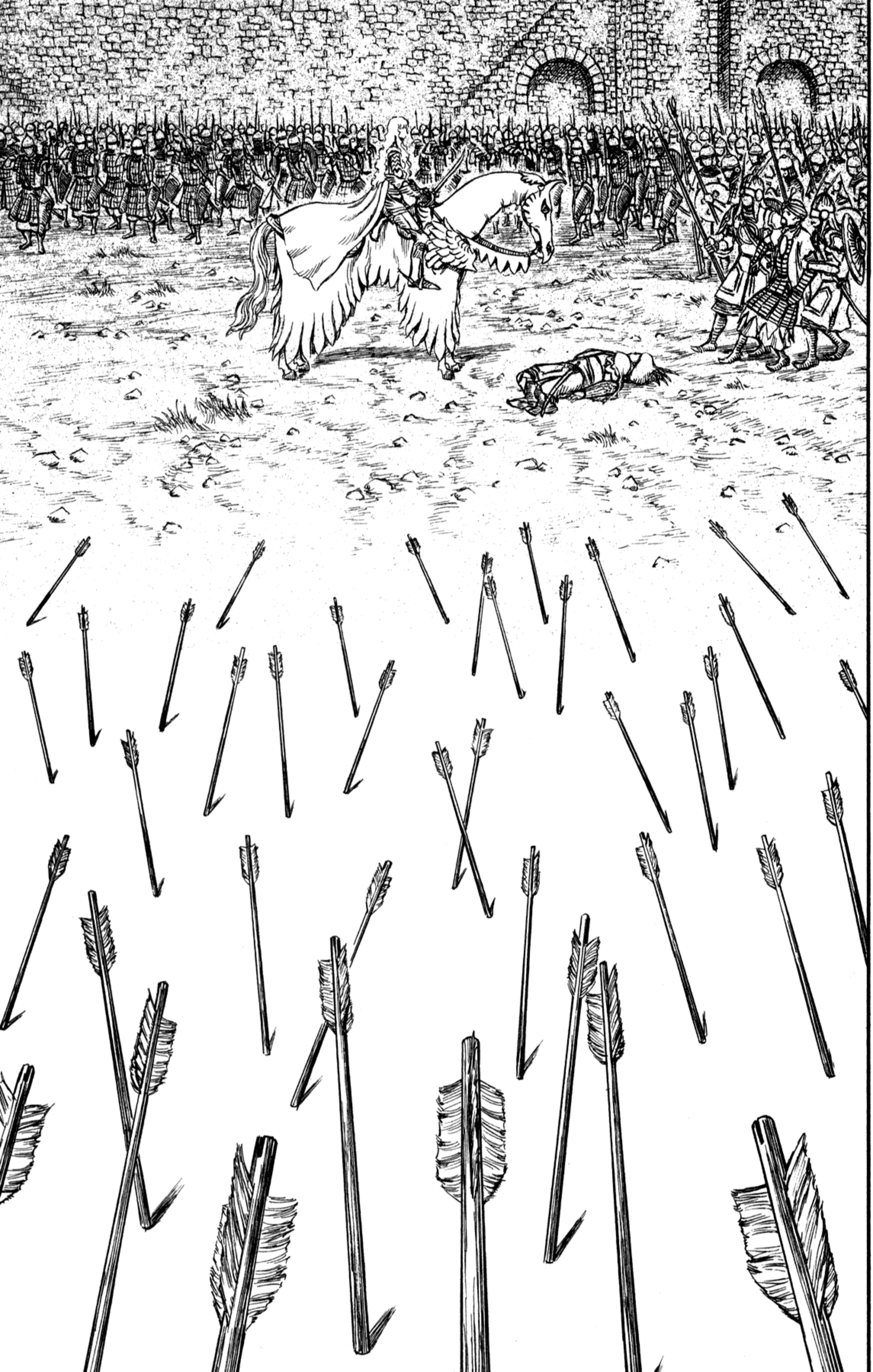
*TUNG

*TUNG

*TUNG

W...

*FX: SMP SMP SMP SMP SMP SMP SMP



BUT...

*FX: MURMUR

A COINCI-DENCE ...?

*FX: MURMUR

IMPOSSIBLE!! NO WAY COULD HE--NOT THAT MANY!!

D-DID HE DODGE ?

NOT ONE ARROW ...?

N...

WHY ARE YOU JUST *STANDING* THERE?!

OF *COURSE* IT'S MERE COINCIDENCE !!

F-*FOOLS* !!

*SHNNK

FIRE!!

SECOND VOLLEY !!

?!

*FX: SHRONK

WHAT'S HAPPENING ...?!

WHA --?

CHOLP

*CHOLP

*GUFFF

WH-WHAT IS HE...?!

*GRRRR

SLAY HIM AS WELL !!

IS HE WITH THAT MAN?!

*FX: ROHHHHH

*WHOK

KRAK!

*UWAHHH

THEY'RE JUST *TWO* HORSEMEN !!

S- STAND YOUR GROUND !!

HE'S A *MON- STER* !!

THAT WARRIOR ...!!

.....

STOP DAWDLING !!

ARGH!! HURRY AND BRING HIM DOWN!!

TCH!

*HYNN

*FX: THUD THD GCHAK

?!

IGH!

ドゴ

ドゴ

ガチャ

*HYNNN

*CHK

*CHK

*CHK

*CHK

!

VRHRHRHR

...FOR BEING ON HORSE-BACK.

MY ENEMIES, YOUR PARDON...

*FX: GCHAK

I HAVE RIDDEN HERE GUIDED BY AN ORACLE.

MY NAME IS *LOCUS.*

I RECOGNIZE YOU AS THE HAWK OF LIGHT.

IS THIS THE TRUTH?

*CLOP

*CLOP

I ACCEPT YOUR SWORD.

THE MOONLIGHT KNIGHT, LOCLIS.

DELIGHTED !!

*FX: CHANK

HE *IS* MIDLAND'S GUARDIAN ANGEL...!!

I SAW HIS FACE IN THE VICTORY PARADE AT WINDHAM. IT COULDN'T BE ANYONE ELSE!

BUT THAT CAN'T BE...

"HAWK" ...

HAWK OF LIGHT...

NO, THERE'S NO MISTAKING HIM...!!

I HEARD HE DIED.

I... INSANITY! WITH JUST THREE HORSEMEN ...!!

ウワァア

*UWAHHH

*DOMMM

*FX: YANK

IT'S HIM...

*FX: TROT

HE'S THE ONE!!

HEY, YOU!!

STOP, GIRL! IT'S DANGEROUS !!

*ZHUNK

THE WIND WHISPERED...

...THAT THE WORLD HAS BEGUN TO CHANGE.

GRIFFITH.

WAR CRY OF THE WIND (1): END

HAWK OF THE
MILLENIUM EMPIRE ARC
THE HOLY EVIL WAR CHAPTER

WAR CRY OF THE WIND, PART 2

聖魔戦記の章　鬨の風②

BERSERK

WHAT BENEFIT IS THERE IN BEING LOYAL TO THESE?

WE SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS CHAOS TO CAPTURE THE HAWK.

YOUNG MASTER.

WAIT.

*FX: OHHHHHH

IT'S LIKE HE'S NOT EVEN HUMAN.

HE'S INCREDIBLY BEAUTIFUL.

*SHMM

*LEAP

*FX: WSHH WSHH

LOOK OUT...!!

*SHUFFF

SO YOU'RE THE HAWK OF LIGHT.

I HEARD THE ORACLE.

THAT MASK... !!

YOU'RE *RAKSAS!!*

.....

... LOVELY ...

YOU'RE ...

... EXILE HERE ?!

WHY IS OUR CLAN'S ...

*VWAA

I'LL PLAY WITH YOU.

GRNN!

オ・オ・オオオオオ
*OHHHHHH
BAR THE GATE !!
CUT OFF THEIR ESCAPE !!
ガギッ
*GACKT
*DOSSH

*MUUUUU

A NAGA ...?!

G- GIANT ?!

ATTACK !!

HE'S BY HIMSELF !

STAND YOUR GROUND !!

ST...

*FX: URAHHH

*FX: HEAVE

*GCHAK

*FX: CHOK

*BWOOM

*BWOOOSH

UGHH...

ALL FORCES IN THE STRONGHOLD, DEPLOY!!

*RAHH RAHH

MESSAGE !!

WHAT IN THE ...?!

WH...

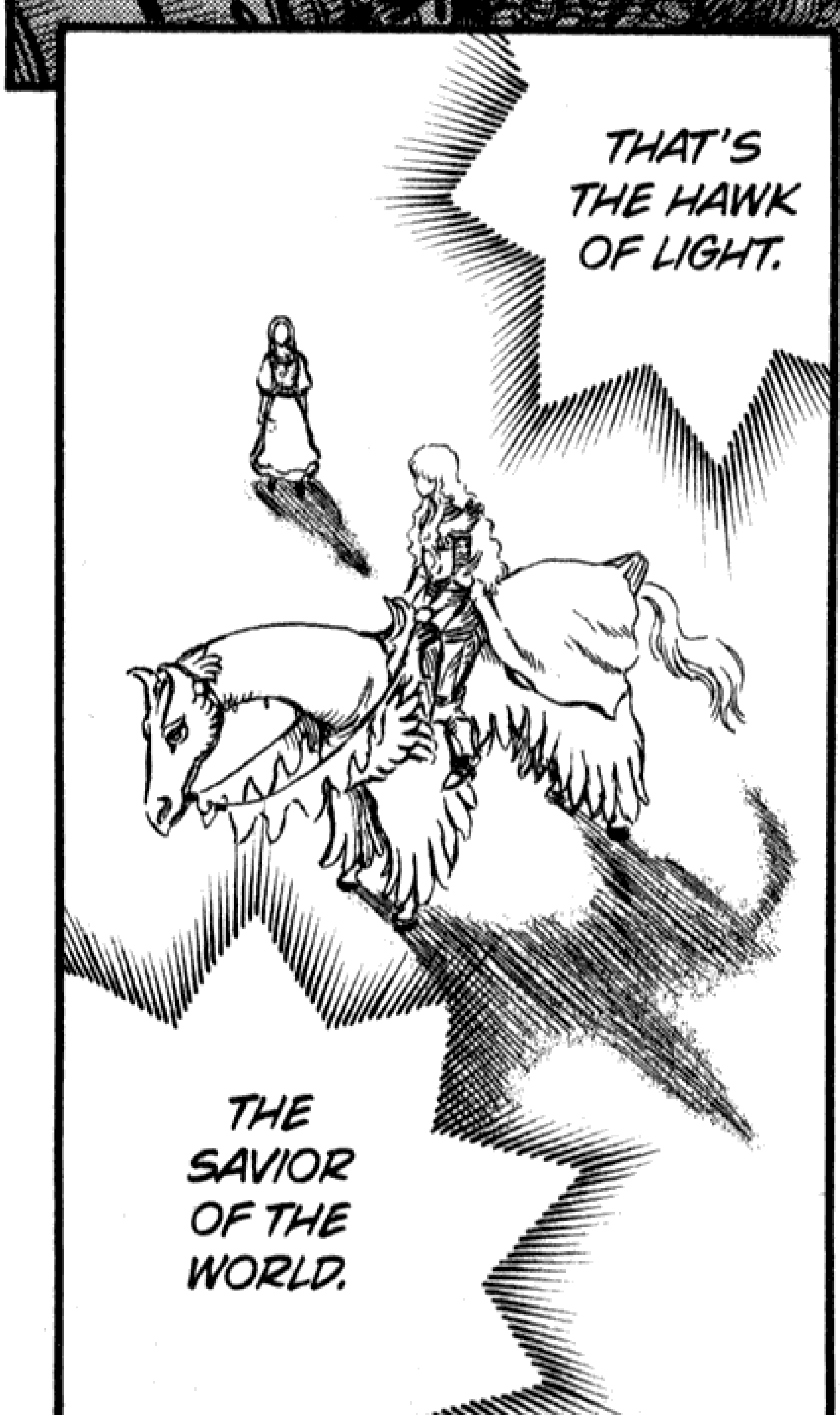
*FX: GCHAK

WHO GOES THERE ?!

カチャ

ゴオオオオ…
*BROARRRR

......
オオオ…オオ…
*ROHHHHH


THAT'S THE HAWK OF LIGHT.
THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD.

GEEZ, SCHIERKE, YOU'RE SO TOUGH TO UNDERSTAND.

NEARING THAT FORCE FIELD AS A LUMINOUS BODY WAS PERILOUS. ONE MISTAKE AND I'D BE LOST IN THE ASTRAL WORLD...

WHY'D YOU HAVE TA USE A BIRD ?

THANK YOU.

*FLAP FLAP

*FX: ZMMM

*FX: FM

THE ONE WHO SHALL CALL DOWN UPON THE WORLD AN AGE OF DARKNESS.

THE ANGEL IS THE HAWK OF DARKNESS.

THE MASTER OF THE SINFUL BLACK SHEEP, THE KING OF THE BLIND WHITE SHEEP.

ヒュー

*WHOOOOOO

ウ ウ ウ

EVERYTHING RED, RED IN THE SETTING SUN SHINING UPON THE BLOOD!!

DYED RED...

A CHOKING STENCH.

...OF BLOOD HANGING IN THE AIR.

MINDS GONE NUMB WITH THE STENCH...

HOWEVER...

THIS SCENE, WHICH SHOULD BE ONLY GRUESOME...

...AN INIMITABLE PAINTING.

...IT WAS LIKE...

...INSTEAD...

BERSERK

OF SNOW AND FLAME
FIRST ACT
雪と炎と／前篇

BERSERK

IT IS NICE NOT TO HAVE TO MOVE WITH SO MANY PEOPLE-- NICE AND QUIET.

IT TRULY FEELS LIKE A JOURNEY.

THANK GOODNESS WE FOUND A PLACE WHERE THE SNOW AND WIND ARE TOLERABLE FOR THE TIME BEING.

THEN SHALL WE RETURN TO THE HOLY CITY?

I HAVE NO SUCH INTEN-TION.

GIVE UP ON THE BLACK SWORDS-MAN?

NONE OF IT IS NICE.

HOW SO?

IT'S COLD.

WE'RE HUNGRY.

DO YOU SUGGEST I REPORT TO THE COURT SUPREME THAT THE HOLY IRON CHAIN KNIGHTS AND REFUGEES WERE SWALLOWED BY MONSTERS?

WONDER IF THE VICE-COMMANDER'S OKAY.

HE'S AN OVERLY LITERAL MAN.

FORGET REASSIGNMENT. WE MIGHT ACTUALLY END UP BEING TRIED AS HERETICS!

...TO RETURN TO THAT MANSION.

...I NO LONGER CARE...

BESIDES ...

*FX: SNEP

...WHAT ARE YOU DOING OVER THERE? COME CLOSER TO THE FIRE.

BUT LISTEN...

AH, NO... YOU NEEDN'T WORRY. WE CAN'T AFFORD KUSHAN OR THE LIKE TO SHOW UP, SO I WILL KEEP WATCH.

I'LL NOT HAVE ONE WHO SUPPLIES MY FOOD COLLAPSING!

COME AND WARM YOURSELF!

WHO WOULD BE OUT IN *THIS* SNOW?!

.....

I GIVE THIS TO YOU...

YOU MUSTN'T GET TOO EXCITED, MOTHER. YOU WILL SUFFER ANOTHER COUGHING SPELL.

"HAVE PRIDE."

SHE REPEATED THAT DELIRIOUSLY LIKE SOME MANTRA.

SOMEDAY YOUR FATHER WILL COME FOR US.

YOU MUST HAVE THE PRIDE OF AN ARISTOCRAT SO YOU DON'T DISAPPOINT HIM WHEN THAT DAY COMES.

ヒュー ヒュー *HHH HHH

YOU ALONE ARE MY HOPE.

CARRY IT WITH YOU ALWAYS.

SHE SAID AT THE END OF THE HONEYMOON WITH HIM SHE WAS BLESSED WITH ME.

APPARENTLY, LONG AGO, SHE WORKED AS A MAID IN A CERTAIN NOBLEMAN'S MANSION.

SO I AM THE BASTARD SON OF A NOBLEMAN.

PERHAPS ONE DAY IT WILL PROVE YOUR CLAIM.

...HOW IN THE WORLD A CHILD NOT EVEN TEN HAD TO MANAGE TO SUPPORT HIMSELF AND HIS MOTHER ON HER SICKBED.

YOU OWE MY BROTHER ONE FOR YESTERDAY.

IT SEEMED SHE COULDN'T EVEN IMAGINE...

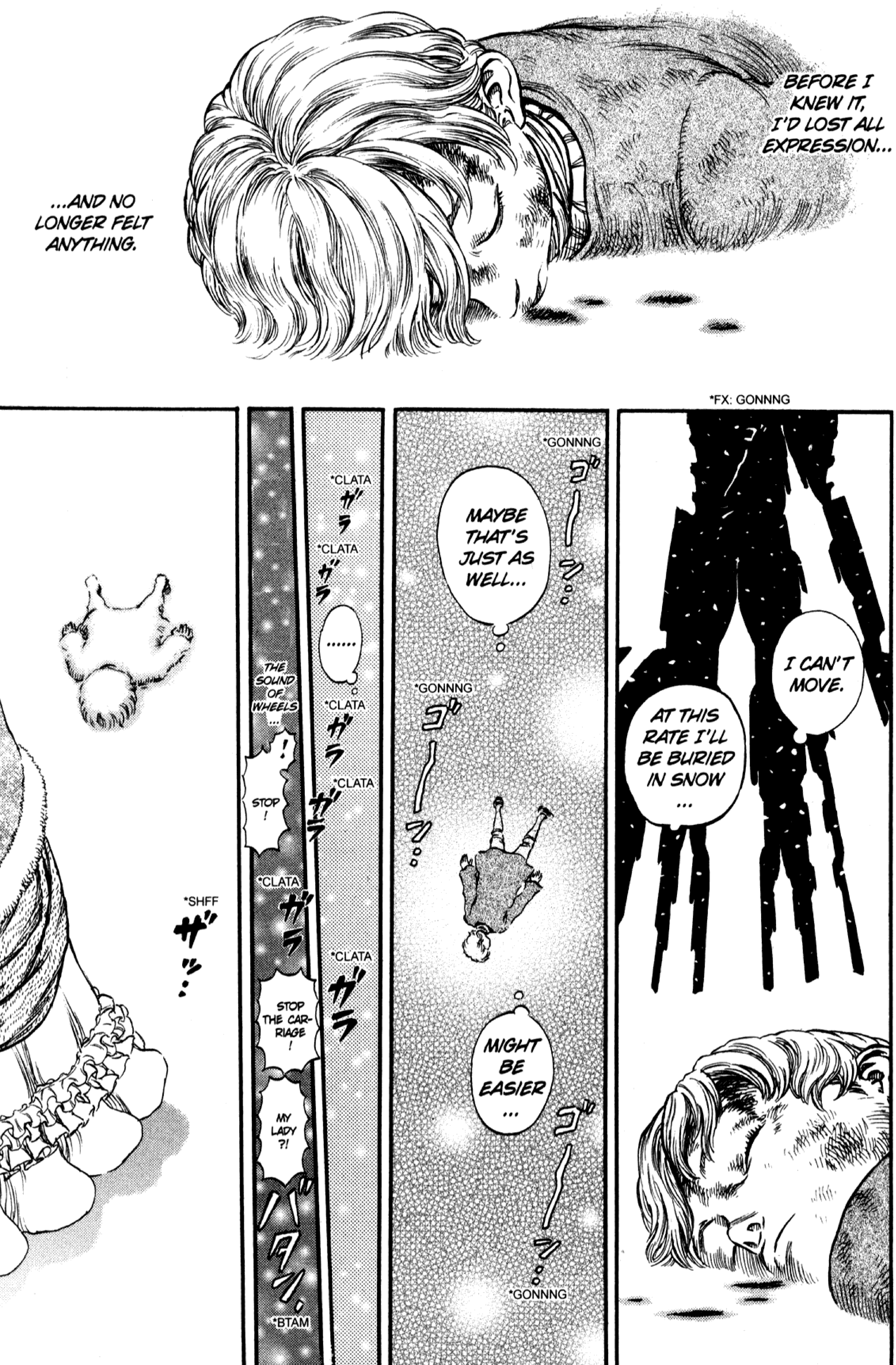
...AND LIVED VICARIOUSLY BY BURDENING ME WITH HER DREAM.

MOTHER CLUNG TO HER SWEET MEMORIES...

AND EVERY DAY THE CITY ROBBED ME OF THAT PRIDE COMPLETELY.

BEAT HIM HALF TO DEATH!

EVERY DAY MOTHER FORCED ME TO BEAR MORE PRIDE THAN I EVER COULD.



BEFORE I KNEW IT, I'D LOST ALL EXPRESSION...
...AND NO LONGER FELT ANYTHING.
*FX: GONNNG
I CAN'T MOVE.
AT THIS RATE I'LL BE BURIED IN SNOW ...
*GONNNG
ゴーン
MAYBE THAT'S JUST AS WELL...
*GONNNG
ゴーン
MIGHT BE EASIER ...
ゴーン
*GONNNG
*CLATA
ガラ
*CLATA
ガラ
......
*CLATA
ガラ
*CLATA
ガラ
*CLATA
ガラ
THE SOUND OF WHEELS...
!
STOP!
*CLATA
ガラ
STOP THE CARRIAGE!
MY LADY ?!
バタン
*BTAM
*SHFF
ザッ

...THIS LITTLE TYRANT.

ALL IN THE MANSION TREAD FEARFULLY AROUND...

THE LADY FARNESE WAS LITERALLY LEFT TO HERSELF IN THIS EXPANSIVE MANSION.

HER PARENTS...

...BURIED HER IN THINGS TO EXPRESS THEIR LOVE.

BUT SHE HAD A FITTING REASON TO BE AS SUCH.

AND HER MOTHER, LOSING HERSELF IN DISSIPATION, ABANDONED HER DAUGHTER DAILY.

HER FATHER, THE LORD VANDIMION, WAS ZEALOUS FOR HIS WORK AND RARELY RETURNED TO THE MANSION.

A GRAVE AND GLOOMY LABYRINTH.

THE SOLEMN STATUES LOOKED DOWN UPON HER.

...SHE WOULD RARELY PASS EVEN ONE OF THEM.

WHILE THERE WERE DOZENS OF SERVANTS EMPLOYED...

...MELANCHOLY HOVEL IN WHICH MOTHER AND I LIVED.

SOMETHING ABOUT IT REMINDED ME OF THE...

...SHE LIVED ALONE, AS SHE SAW FIT.

IN THIS HUGE PRISON...

YOU WILL CATCH COLD.

MAYBE IT WAS NOT MERE PITY AND SELFISHNESS... MAYBE WE BOTH SENSED THE SAME SCENT UPON ONE ANOTHER.

...EXISTED A TINY CLEARING.

THERE, DEEP IN THE FOREST...

...SHE LED ME INTO THE WOODS BEHIND THE MANSION.

ONE TIME...

...WERE WHAT LOOKED LIKE THE BONES OF SMALL ANIMALS...

?

SUDDENLY I REALIZED THAT SCATTERED AROUND US...

...THEN, BEFORE LONG FELL INTO SILENCE.

FOR BUT A MOMENT, IT FLUTTERED FURIOUSLY AND CRIED OUT...

FETCH ME SOME TWIGS.

.....

*FX: CHEEP

JUST RECENTLY LADY FARNESE HAD BEEN DOTING UPON IT.

THIS SMALL BIRD...

IT WOULDN'T BECOME ATTACHED TO ME AT ALL.

LADY FARNESE ...?

I BURN ALL THE BAD ONES HERE.

THIS IS MY *CREMATORY.*

MY HOLY ALTAR.

...HER SMILE ILLUMINATED BY THE FLAMES.

THAT STORY ABOUT THE BURNED SERVANT WASN'T A LIE.

SHE SPOKE, ABSORBEDLY...

...THEN WHY...?

BUT...

...IN DOING THIS, SHE INTENDED TO FRIGHTEN PEOPLE AND DRIVE THEM AWAY.

IT WAS AS IF...

...SHE WENT OUT AND THREW TORCHES PERSONALLY.

...I HEARD THAT WHEN SHE WAS YOUNGER...

IT WAS USED FOR STAKE BURNINGS DURING THE HEIGHT OF AN INQUISITION.

THE PLAZA OVERLOOKED BY LADY FARNESE'S BEDROOM.

I SUPPOSE SHE WAS ALONE IN THIS DARKNESS, LIT ONLY THROUGH THE WINDOWS BY THE FLICKERING FLAMES.

I'LL BURN ...

...YOU UP AS WELL.

SHE IS AFRAID, SO SHE INJURES THEM. SHE IS AFRAID, SO SHE ESTRANGES THEM.

SHE IS AFRAID, SO SHE IS DESPERATE TO BE THE ONE WHO IS FEARED.

SHE IS AFRAID. AFRAID OF BEING LEFT ALL ALONE IN THIS VAST PRISON...

...HE MUST BURY THAT PART OF HIMSELF, ADAPTING TO REALITY.

BEFORE A CHILD CAN EVER GRASP FOR HAPPINESS...

...HIS TRUE SELF VANISHES...

HOWEVER, BEFORE LONG...

...PILES UP IN THE LABYRINTH.

...AS THE SNOW...

...SHOOK ME MORE THAN A LITTLE.

HOWEVER, THE TRUTH THAT LADY FARNESE WAS MY YOUNGER HALF-SISTER...

HE EXPLAINED THAT, IN ORDER TO AVOID ANY MORE USELESS SQUABBLING, THERE WAS NO WAY HE COULD ALLOW ME, AS A BASTARD, TO ASSUME THE FAMILY NAME, VANDIMION.

FATHER SAID THAT THERE WERE THREE MEN--MY HALF-BROTHERS--EACH VYING TO SUCCEED HIM AS HEAD OF THE FAMILY.

...BE WILLING TO MEET WITH MY MOTHER ?

WOULD YOU...

...AND MY CIRCUM-STANCES WOULD BE DEALT WITH IN AN APPROPRIATE FASHION.

IF I PROMISED TO PROTECT THE SECRET THENCEFORTH, I WOULD BE GRANTED A TITLE OF NOBILITY...

A POLITE DISMISSAL...

IN TIME...

MY POOR MOTHER...

IT IS GOD'S GUIDANCE ...!

WITH SO MANY ASSETS, FINDING ME AND MOTHER SHOULD HAVE BEEN TRIVIAL.

IS SHE AGAIN GOING TO DANCE WITH NONE BUT HER ESCORT?

WHO IS HE, ANYWAY?

THEY'RE ALL DESPERATE TO GET UNDER THE VANDIMION UMBRELLA.

EVERY-ONE AIMS TO BE CLOSE TO HER.

SO MUCH FOR THAT.

SHE IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE.

!

*SWAP

HE WAS BORN *COMMON*?!

...HE BELONGS TO THE PEERAGE BUT WAS ORIGINALLY LADY FARNESE'S PAGE.

I HEARD...

LADY FARNESE?

IT SEEMS HER FATHER, LORD VANDIMION HIMSELF, IS HIS SPONSOR. HE SURE PICKED THE RIGHT PLACE TO WORM INTO.

HOWEVER, AS I AM A LADY, THE VERY ONE YOU INSULTED SHALL BE YOUR OPPONENT.

I KNEW IT...

*TUG

A DUEL!!

LADY...

I'LL *NOT* FORGIVE YOU FOR INSULTING MY COMPANION!!

*CHING

*CHING

...FATHER.

YES...

CURIOUS FRUIT, LEFT TO BE RAISED BY ANOTHER. BUT WHEN IT IS RIPE, THE ONE WHO PICKS IT IS THE OWNER OF THE FOREST.

LADY FARN-EEESE.

!

LADY
...

OUTSIDE
...

I CAN'T LIVE ANYWHERE OTHER THAN HERE.

NO...

I CAN'T LEAVE THIS PLACE.

BUT...

IF YOU WERE TO TAKE ME AND RUN AWAY...

.....

*PUSH

グイッ

BECAUSE YOU...

...AND I ARE...

...BENT TOGETHER...

IT WAS THE ONE FROM THAT TIME.

LADY FARNESE'S EXPRESSION, ILLUMINATED BY THE FLAMES.

...HAD FOUND THE PLACE SHE BELONGED.

PERHAPS LADY FARNESE...

FLAMES...

THEY SCORCHED HER HEART.

THE FUNDAMENT OF HER CHILDHOOD...

THEY WERE MEMBERS OF A HERETICAL SECT.

HERETICS. THEY WEREN'T "DEVIL WORSHIPERS."

IT WAS DENOUNCED AS HERESY BY THE HOLY SEE.

THEY PREACHED "ALL ARE EQUAL IN THE EYES OF GOD."

THEY PROTESTED AGAINST THE WEALTH OF THE WORLD BEING MONOPOLIZED BY THE CHURCH AND NOBILITY.

IN REALITY IT MEANT AN ENTIRE FAMILY WIPED OUT.

IF EVEN ONE RELATIVE WAS EXPOSED AS A HERETIC, AN ENTIRE FAMILY WOULD BE COERCED INTO A TRIAL.

THE OPPRESSION AGAINST THOSE WHO THREATENED THEIR SOCIAL STATUS AND AUTHORITY REACHED THE EXTREMES OF VIOLENCE.

...WHO LACKED EVEN THEIR DAILY BREAD.

...WERE POOR THIRD-CLASS CITIZENS...

NEARLY ALL WHO WERE ARRESTED...

...WHO I ONCE WAS.

THEY WERE...

...COULD MANAGE TO SHAKE MY HEART...

BUT NO GRUESOME SPECTACLE I WITNESSED...

WHY IS SHE HERE?

OH, GOD ...

WHY?

HN? WHAT DID HE JUST SAY?

...UNDER-STANDS ANYTHING ...

MOTHER NO LONGER ...

ドクン

*BADUMP

THIS IS SOME KIND OF MISTAKE. I MEAN, MOTHER...

SERPICO ?

ドクン

*BADUMP

*BADUMP

ドクン

...!

MO-THER ...

IS YOUR MOTHER AMONG THOSE?

DID HE JUST SAY "MOTHER ?"

!

PROVE SHE'S NOT YOUR MOTHER.

PROVE IT TO ME.

SWEAR IT ONCE MORE.

I AM YOUR MISTRESS.

ONLY *I*.

ALWAYS, NOW...

...AND FOREVER.

...WE BURY AND HIDE?

WHAT DID...

BERSERK

*FX: DOSSH

*FX: ZHOP

*FX: SHPANNNG

STOP THOSE TWO HORSEMEN !!

STOP THEM !!

*WHOK

*WHOK

*SH-SHFSHFSHF

?!

SLOW.

*KRIK

OBTUSE.

...THE TAPASA, INQUIRE IN AMAZEMENT.

THE SUMMIT OF THE BAKIRAKA ...

*KRIK

IMPOSSIBLE ...!!

WE TAPASA WERE KNOCKED DOWN?!

SOMEDAY I'LL LOP OFF YOUR HEAD...

...AND MAKE IT MINE.

*FX: CACKLE CACKLE

MHM

MHM

HEH HEH HEH

*FX: PWIT

...I'LL LET NO HARM COME TO YOU.

*FX: SWAY

UNTIL THEN...

*WHONG

WHAT ?!

WHA --?

*ZOOSH

*FX: GSHAK
AI!
AIIEE...!
IT SPAT FIRE ...!!
*FX: JOK!
*SHHWOK

OR PERHAPS...

AH. YOU'RE BACK.

*FX: FLAP FLAP

*FX: CHIRP

WE WERE NOW SURELY IN THE MIDST OF SOME EXTRAORDINARY TALE.

COLD AND HUNGER CALL FORTH THAT CHILD-HOOD DAY.

UGH... FIRE.

IT WAS A SNOWY NIGHT JUST LIKE THIS WHEN I HAPPENED TO MEET LADY FARNESE.

?

HYA HA HA!

BEAT IT!

*FX: DOSH

FROM NOW ON ***WE'RE*** THE ONES WHO SAY WHO GETS FOOD AROUND HERE! RUNTS LIKE YOU DON'T GET A SHARE!

NOW GET LOST!

*WHACK

JOHN!
YOU LITTLE--!
IGH!
S...
STO--
BLAH!
*FX: WHOCK WHACK
*KRUNK
HEEEEEE...!
*HAHH
*HAHH
*HAHH
THE CAPITAL WHERE GOD DWELLS.
W-WAIT...
UWAHHH!!
THIS IS THE HOLY CITY.
HERE, EVERYTHING EXISTS FOR GOD, AND ALL IS OFFERED UP TO HIM.
*GONNNG
*GONNNG
THE BELLS RESOUND HIS GLORY.
*GONNNG
THE MYRIAD TOWERS ASPIRE TO PRAISE GOD.
...THIS CITY COULD PROVE TO BE A HARSH PLACE.
FOR THOSE WITH NOTHING TO OFFER...
*FX: KREEEE
OPENING THAT DOOR WAS ALWAYS DEPRESSING.
ギィィ...
A DIM ROOM AT THE REAR OF THE SECOND FLOOR...
*FX: KREE
...I SPENT MY YOUTH TOGETHER WITH IT...
ギィ...
IN A ROTTING HOVEL ON THE EDGE OF SAID CITY...

...IT REMINDED THE YOUNG ME OF DEATH.

EMACIATED TO SKIN AND BONES BY ILLNESS...

I HAVE YOUR MEAL, MOTHER.

MY BACK ACHES. RUB IT FOR ME.

WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? WHILE YOUR MOTHER SUFFERS HERE SO...

HOW DID YOU GET THOSE BRUISES?

OH, UM, I GOT INTO A FIGHT WITH BOYS IN TOWN...

*SLAP

ヒソ

...MADE HER SEEM LIKE SOME STRANGE MONSTER!

HER PROTRUDING, TWISTED SPINE AND RIBS...

FIGHTING WITH COMMONERS IS ABSURD!

YOU MUST HAVE PRIDE!

YOU ARE AN ARISTOCRAT!

THE WORD WAS A CURSE TO ME.

"ARISTOCRAT."

HEH...

I KNEW AT A GLANCE.

SILLY RABBIT ...

PERFECT FROM HER HEAD TO HER TOES.

WHAT GAZED DOWN ON ME WAS, UNLIKE MYSELF, NO IMPOSTER. A GENUINE DAUGHTER OF NOBILITY...

WHAT IS IT? IS THIS FILTHY CHILD DYING IN THE STREET?

!

WHAT IS IT, MY LADY? WE WILL BE LATE FOR HOLY COMMUNION.

...

M'LADY?

PUT THAT BOY IN THE CARRIAGE. WE'RE TAKING HIM TO THE MANSION.

HOLY COMMUNION CAN WAIT.

...

INSOLENT WHELP!

*GISH

ゲシ

SO SHE THINKS SHE'S FOUND A WOUNDED PUPPY OR SOMETHING...

I WILL LOOK AFTER THIS BOY!

MY LADY, *WE* SHALL SEE TO HIM...

NO, YOU SHALL *NOT!*

ALL OF YOU MAY LEAVE!

*FX: PLACH

*FX: PECH

HEED THIS.

...SO YOU NOW BELONG TO *ME.*

I AM THE ONE WHO SAVED YOUR LIFE...

...MY ABILITY TO FATHOM.

PLEDGE YOUR-SELF.

AT THE TIME, IT WAS BEYOND...

I WOULD BE LYING IF I SAID IT DIDN'T LIFT MY HEART.

DO NOT WORRY-- MY WAGES WILL ALLOW ME TO HIRE A HOUSEKEEPER TO CARE FOR YOU.

NOW I'D BE LIBERATED FROM THIS MELANCHOLY MONSTER.

I WAS TOLD I WOULD LIVE AND WORK THERE, STARTING TOMORROW.

...I WAS ABLE TO FIND UNEXPECTED EMPLOYMENT.

I WAS SO EXCITED, I FAILED TO ASK.

WHAT IS THE NAME?

BUT THANKS TO THAT...

AT A NOBLE MAN-SION?

...I BECAME AWARE OF MY SIN.

SERVE THEM WELL.

THIS IS YOUR ONE CHANCE TO TOUCH NOBLE SOCIETY.

ALTHOUGH HEARING WHAT SHE SAID...

STARTING TODAY, YOU'RE MY PERSONAL PAGE.

HOUSE VANDIMION. ITS ASSETS ARE RUMORED TO SURPASS THE BUDGET OF AN EMINENT NATION. ITS BLOODLINE IS APPARENT IN THE ROYAL FAMILIES OF SEVERAL KINGDOMS. IT IS THE NOBLE FAMILY OF NOBLE FAMILIES, CENTERED IN THE HOLY CITY AND BOASTING TREMENDOUS INFLUENCE EVEN IN THE RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY.

BUT I WAS TOO YOUNG TO COMPREHEND SUCH SIGNIFICANCE.

LOOKING AT IT AGAIN, IT'S HUGE!

...UNREASONABLE COMMANDS...

...I WAS ABLE TO BROOK ...

...THE SOME-WHAT...

YES, LADY FARNESE.

YOU ARE TO OBEY ME ABSO-LUTELY. SERVE ME WELL.

AND WITH THAT IN MIND...

I WAS RELEASED FROM THOSE ABOMINABLE DAYS.

...OF MY NEW MISTRESS.

MIND YOU DON'T GO AND PUT THE YOUNG MISTRESS IN A FOUL MOOD.

...

SHE EVEN SET FIRE TO ONE GIRL'S DRESS, BADLY BURNING HER.

ALL OF LADY FARNESE'S SERVANTS GET FED UP WITH HER DISPOSITION AND RUN OFF.

YOU MIGHT HAVE SOME BROKEN BONES.

YOU SAY YOU FELL OFF A HORSE?

YOU PUT UP WITH IT WELL.

POOR THING.

ゥ ゥ

*FX: FLASH

YES, MILADY.

LISTEN TO ME. YOU WILL STAY HERE ALL NIGHT AND HOLD MY HAND.

*FX: WHOOOOO

ONE STORMY NIGHT...

EE EK!

OH, NO!

THE WIN-DOW ...!!

ア ア

EE EE EK!

LADY FARNESE, IT IS ALL RIGHT.

EEEK!! NOOO!!

*FX: BRMMMBLLE

BUT I CANNOT ...

DO SOME-THING ABOUT THAT THUNDER !!

*FX: CRASSSH

*FX: RUN

LADY FARNESE, WHERE ARE YOU...?!

!

LADY FARNESE !!

*FX: GOHHHH

ゴォォ

オオオ

!

...SHE WAS DANCING IN CIRCLES, CRYING OUT IN A QUEER VOICE THAT WAS NEITHER A SCREAM NOR A LAUGH.

THERE IN THE STORM...

SOMETHING GHASTLY COMPELLED HER...

*FX: AHA HA HA HA

*CRASSSH

?!

LADY FARNESE !!

...REPULSED THE PEOPLE AROUND HER.

IT WAS THIS ABNORMAL BEHAVIOR THAT...

IT'S A STORM !!

YOU JUST NEED TO BECOME A STORM YOURSELF !!

YES, FATHER.

I WAS JUST DISCUSSING BUSINESS.

JUST A MINUTE, FARNESE.

FATHERRR!

ONE SNOWY DAY, THE MASTER OF THE MANSION RETURNED HOME. IT HAD BEEN OVER A YEAR SINCE I WAS HIRED, BUT THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME I HAD SEEN HIM.

I CAN ORDER AS MANY NEW ONES AS YOU'D LIKE. ANYWAY, RUN ALONG FOR RIGHT NOW.

UH ... UH ...

THROW THAT OUT.

AH...

OH?

WHAT IS THAT FILTHY DOLL?

EH?

...FATHER.

YES...

LADY FARNESE?

IT SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN A PRECIOUS MEMENTO.

...LADY FARNESE NAGGED HER FATHER TO BUY THAT RABBIT FOR HER.

...YEARS AGO, THE ONE TIME THAT THE FAMILY TOOK A TRIP TOGETHER...

ACCORDING TO MY FELLOW SERVANTS...

GO AWAY.

パチ・・・ *SNAP

LADY ...

... ...

IT CONTAINED AN INLAID PICTURE OF MY YOUNG MOTHER AND FATHER.

WHAT IS IT, MASTER?

WHAT IS THAT HANGING FROM YOUR NECK...?

OH, I THOUGHT SO...

I THOUGHT HE WOULD ACCUSE ME OF STEALING IT.

THIS?

LET ME SEE IT CLOSELY.

ONE TIME I WAS HALTED BY THE MASTER OF THE HOUSE.

...I CAME TO MEET HIM.

THUS...

IT WAS RATHER UNDERWHELMING.

HE'S THE ONE...

THERE WAS NOTHING ESPECIALLY MOVING ABOUT IT FOR ME.

...BUT I HEAR FROM THOSE IN THE MANSION THAT THEIR LIVES HAVE BEEN MADE MUCH EASIER SINCE YOU BECAME HER COMPANION.

HONESTLY, I'M QUITE AT A LOSS AS CONCERNS FARNESE. SHE FEIGNS INNOCENCE BEFORE ME...

THAT WAS WHAT THE FATHER WHO SAW HER ONLY ONCE ALL YEAR SAID SHAMELESSLY.

VERY WELL.

I ACCEPTED FATHER'S CONDITIONS.

I HOPED TO REMAIN IN THIS MANSION.

PERHAPS WE WANTED MERELY TO FEEL THE WARMTH IN EACH OTHER, A WARMTH WE HAD IN COMMON.

WE DO NOT HAVE THE POWER NOW TO MELT THE SNOW THAT LIES THICK ABOUT US.

OF SNOW AND FLAME
FINAL ACT
雪と炎と／後篇

BERSERK

...BEARING CURIOUS FRUIT.

AND WITHOUT THEIR KNOWLEDGE, TREES/ BEGIN TO EXTEND...

...THEIR BRANCHES BEYOND THEIR MINIATURE GARDEN...

TIME PASSED WITHIN THE LABY-RINTH.

THE TWO SAPLINGS BENEATH THE SNOWY DRIFT BECAME BENT AND ENTWINED AS THEY GREW...

SERPICO, BE MY PARTNER.

EXCUSE ME.

LADY FARNESE.

LADY FARNESE, IF YOU WOULD JOIN ME FOR THIS DANCE.

RATHER, WOULD YOU WITH ME...

WELL, THEN... I GUESS THIS IS A DRAW.

VERY WELL FOUGHT.

OH!

I APOLOGIZE FOR MY EARLIER IMPOLITE-NESS, LADY FARNESE.

YOUR SKILLS BELIE YOUR COMMON ORIGIN. NO WONDER, AS YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN AS THE GUARD FOR YOUNG LADY VANDIMION.

COME NOW.

.....

*FX: BLASH

THIS WOUND IS LAST WEEK'S.

THIS AND THIS ARE FROM LAST MONTH.

YOU GIVE ME TOO MUCH CREDIT.

NOT AT ALL.

HMPH ...

FINE, THEN.

YOU MAY BE MORE EXCITING ...

...AS A RAGDOLL.

SINCE WHEN WAS IT...

...THAT DESPITE HER BENT SHAPE, LADY FARNESE CAME TO HAVE FEELINGS FOR ME BEYOND THOSE OF A MISTRESS FOR HER SERVANT?

WHY WON'T YOU FIGHT SERIOUSLY?

YOUR SWORD SKILLS SHOULD'VE BEEN ENOUGH TO WIN ANY OF THOSE DUELS EASILY!

*GRIND

AT THIS RATE, YOU'LL ONE DAY BE LIKE A RAGDOLL.

*CHOMP

...FOR THE TWO RAISED IN THE CRADLE OF THE LITTLE GARDEN.

MAYBE THAT WAS A NATURAL THING, RATHER...

*HYNN HYNN

THIS IS THE BEST WAY TO PRESERVE LADY FARNESE'S HONOR, WITHOUT SOWING DISCORD...

WHEN I WAS A CHILD IN THIS CITY, I WAS TAUGHT TO THE POINT OF REVULSION THAT RETRIBUTION IS A FOOLISHNESS THAT INCURS ONLY RETRIBUTION.

...

...I OFTEN CAUGHT SIGHT OF WAIFS.

THAT YEAR IN THE HOLY CITY...

...WHO I WAS.

...EVEN KNEW...

SHE NO LONGER ...

...HAD VANISHED FROM HER FACE.

THAT SEVERITY ...

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.

AHH, DEAR HUS-BAND.

...AND I HAD TO SEND HER TO A SANITARIUM.

MOTHER'S CONDITION PROGRESSED...

...IN TIME SHE CAME TO LIVE WITHIN THAT DREAM. THIS MUST HAVE RELIEVED HER...

GAZING AWAY AT A DREAM...

IN THE END, FATHER NEVER ONCE CAME TO SEE HER.

MARRIAGE ?

THE MASTER OF THE HOUSE CAME BACK AFTER SEVERAL YEARS.

BEING SIXTEEN, YOU MUST ASSUME THE DIGNITY OF A LADY.

IT SEEMS THAT I HAVE NOT INTERVENED ENOUGH IN THE LIFE OF MY ONLY DAUGHTER.

FA ...

UH ...

AH ...

I'VE HEARD TELL EVERY TIME YOU GO TO A BALL, A DUEL ENSUES.

I'M DOING THIS FOR YOUR SAKE, FARNESE.

B...

BUT ... ...SO SOON ?!

YOU OBJECT ?

IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING, BUT THIS IS ALSO FOR THE SAKE OF THE VANDIMION FAMILY. YOU DO UNDERSTAND?

YOUR FIANCÉ IS A CERTAIN GENEROUS MEMBER OF ROYALTY WHO HAS ACCEPTED THIS PROPOSAL DESPITE BEING AWARE OF YOUR NEGATIVE BEHAVIOR.

FATHER'S, MOTHER'S, SIBLINGS'...

WHY WAS I NOW UNABLE TO ESCAPE...

...FROM ALL THE YOKES THAT BOUND US...?

A FIRE ...!!

THE MANSION ...!!

THE YOUNG MISTRESS HAS GONE MAD!

*AHA HA HA HA HA

THE WEDDING IS CALLED OFF.

IT WOULD SMEAR THE VANDIMION NAME IN MUD.

I PERMIT ABSOLUTELY *NO ONE* TO HEAR OF THIS.

TO THINK SHE COULD GO *SO* FAR.

THAT FOOLISH DAUGHTER.

ONE OF THE MANSION'S HOUSES BURNED DOWN IN THE FIRE.

I CANNOT *DEAL* WITH HER.

SHE'S A *DEVIL CHILD.*

LADY FARNESE WAS SENT TO A MONASTERY.

UNDESIGNEDLY, HER WISH HAD COME TRUE...

ON THE MASTER'S ORDERS I WAS SENT AS WELL TO LEARN ABOUT THE WORLD AND TO OBSERVE HER.

...LADY FARNESE AND MYSELF BUT A MISTRESS-SERVANT. RELATIONSHIP.

...BUT EVER SINCE THAT DAY, THERE WAS NO LONGER ANYTHING BETWEEN...

...DID NOT LONG AFFORD HER SUCH LEISURE.

...BUT THE VANDIMION NAME...

DAYS WERE SPENT IN TRANQUIL DIALOGUE WITH GOD...

WE ENTRUST TO YOU THIS DUTY.

...BUT HOW GRAND FOR IT TO BE THE DAUGHTER OF THE ***GLORIOUS*** VANDIMION FAMILY.

IT IS TRADITION THAT THE LEADER OF THE HOLY IRON CHAIN KNIGHTS ***BE*** A LADY...

OH, HOW GALLANT.

IT IS AN HONOR TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINT-ANCE.

YOU SHOULD FIND YOU MAY ASK HIM MANY THINGS REGARDING A KNIGHT'S FRAME OF MIND.

YOUR VICE-COMMANDER, ***AZAN,*** WILL SEE TO ALL PRACTICAL MATTERS, SO YOU NEED NOT WORRY.

MHMM.

...RAMPANT HERETICS BEGAN SETTING FIRES TO TEMPLES AND MANSIONS OF THE NOBILITY.

THEN, BY CHANCE, THAT WINTER...

...WERE SENT TO COMPULSORILY CAPTURE AND SUPPRESS THE HERETICS.

EVEN THE HOLY IRON CHAIN KNIGHTS, WHO WERE PRIMARILY CEREMONIAL GUARDS...

...WAS ENOUGH TO MAKE EVEN THE COURT SUPREME MARVEL.

THAT DILIGENT DISCHARGE OF DUTY...

...TOOK PERSONAL CHARGE OF ROUNDING UP THE HERETICS.

AS IF POSSESSED, LADY FARNESE...

THAT RUNDOWN BUILDING! ALL FORCES, CHARGE!!

.....

WE WERE FINALLY ABLE TO STRIKE THEIR HEADQUARTERS. WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT A SANITARIUM WOULD BE THEIR DEN?

WELL DONE, LADY FARNESE.

MO-THER ...

...UNTIL THEN...

...BECAUSE I LEFT YOU ALL ALONE IN THAT HOUSE...?

IS IT...

A RELATIVE OF A MEMBER OF THE HOLY IRON CHAIN KNIGHTS, A *HERETIC*...?!

THAT WOULD BE *IMPOSSIBLE*!!

IS IT MY FAULT...?

WELL YES, BUT HE DID JUST...

IF THIS IS TRUE, IT CONSTITUTES A MAJOR PROBLEM.

I CHANCED TO MEET FATHER, AND JOINED THE PEERAGE AS YOU WISHED.

DEAR HUSBAND.

OHH!

BUT WAS NOT YOUR WISH FULFILLED THANKS TO THAT DECISION?

ISOLATED... CLINGING TO GOD WHILE LIVING IN YOUR DREAM WORLD...

OH, HOW LONG IT HAS BEEN.

HAVE YOU BEEN DESPONDENT NONETHELESS SINCE?

IS THAT THE REASON?

HE HAS NOT DONE ANYTHING TO DISGRACE THE FAMILY NAME?

HAS OUR SON BEEN OF USE TO YOU?

I HATED YOU. I SOMETIMES WISHED FOR YOUR DEATH SO I MIGHT ESCAPE YOUR YOKE.

...YOUR REVENGE?

IS THIS...

YOU THROW THE TORCH.

FAR --!

WHAT WERE WE DELIVERED FROM?

WHAT DID WE BURN TO ASHES?

WHAT WERE WE ENCHAINED BY?

...UPON THE SNOW...

...THE FOOTPRINTS ALONE CONTINUE ON.

LADY FARNESE WILL FOLLOW THAT BLACK SWORDSMAN.

AS IF TRYING TO MELT THE SNOW WITH SOME FLAME.

WE LEFT THAT LABYRINTH WE NEVER THOUGHT WE WOULD ESCAPE...

...AND NOW WE'RE BENEATH THE SKY OF A LONG JOURNEY.

THE SNOW-FALL'S SURREN-DERING. LET'S DEPART.

THE THIRD WINTER SINCE THEN.

THAT MANSION...

...THAT HOLY CITY...

...IS PROBABLY BURIED IN SNOW AGAIN.

BERSERK